1: Krasheninnikov N-5 (1736-40) 1764 Kamchadal

There is likewiſe another creature in theſe ſeas reſembling a whale, but ſmaller and ſlenderer: the *Ruſſians* call it a wolf, and the *Kamtſchadales*, chethak. Its fat is of ſuch a nature, that, when ſwallowed, it preſently paſſes inſenſibly. The natives ſometimes uſe it as a medicine in caſe of coſtiveneſs, but oftener to play tricks with one another. They feed upon the fleſh and tongue, which have not the ſame quality.

Notwithſtanding the great plenty of whales upon this coaſt, the ſcarcity of food is ſometimes ſo great, that whole villages die of hunger. In the month of *April*, 1739, I ſaw a melancholy inſtance of their being obliged, out of neceſſity, to eat ſome poiſonous whale's fat, at a village upon the river *Beroſovor*, called *Alaune*, where I obſerved the people all look pale, as if they had been ſick for a long time; when I aſked the reaſon, I was told, that juſt before my arrival one of the natives was killed by eating of whale's fat; and as all the reſt had eat of the ſame, they dreaded the ſame fate. In about half an hour, a young healthy man began to groan and complain that his throat burnt; upon which the old women, who are the phyſicians there, faſtened him with ropes to a ladder, and placed themſelves on both ſides of him with great clubs in their hands, with which they toſſed firebrands out of the huts, and the wife of the ſick perſon coming behind him, made ſeveral conjurations over his head, begging death to ſpare him: however he died the next day; but the other inhabitants, as I heard, recovered with difficulty after a long time. This accident did not greatly ſurpriſe me; I rather wondered that ſuch things did not happen oftener, eſpecially from thoſe whales which are killed with poiſoned darts. However the *Kamtſchadales* think ſo little of the conſequences, that they had rather riſk their lives than be deprived of the pleaſure of eating whale's fat.

After the whales, we muſt mention the fiſh * mokoe, which at *Archangel* is called akula. It is about three fathoms long;

* Canis Carcharias Autoris.

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